Case 3:13-cv-00344-PGS-DEA Document 1 Filed 01/17/13 Page 1 of 10 PageID: 1 CIVIL COVER SHEET

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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| District of I | New Jersey |
| Malka Josephs | |
| Plaintiff |) } |
| v. |) Civil Action No. q |
| C Tech Collections, Inc. |)) |
| Defendant |) |
| SUMMONS IN A | A CIVIL ACTION |
| To: (Defendant's name and address) C Tech Collections, Inc. 5505 Nesconset Highway, S Mount Sinai, New York 117 | Suite 200 66 |
| A lawsuit has been filed against you. | |
| Tille J Ctatas against Or on Office | ou (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you er or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. wer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of on must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, |
| If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be You also must file your answer or motion with the court. | entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint |
| | CLERK OF COURT |
| Date: | Col. 1 Francis Clark |
| | Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk |

Civil Action No. q

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

| This summons for Iname | of individual and title, if any) | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| ceived by me on (date) | ··· · | | |
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| ☐ I personally served t | he summons on the individual at | **** | ; or |
| | V | on (date) | , Oi |
| ☐ I left the summons a | t the individual's residence or us | ual place of abode with (name) | |
| | , a person of | suitable age and discretion who resid | es there, |
| on (date) | , and mailed a copy to th | e individual's last known address; or | |
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Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

MALKA JOSEPHS,

٧.

Civil Action No.:

Plaintiff,

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT

C TECH COLLECTIONS, INC.,

Defendant

Plaintiff MALKA JOSEPHS ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, M. Harvey Rephen & Associates, P.C., as and for her Complaint against the Defendant, C TECH COLLECTIONS, INC. ("Defendant"), respectfully sets forth, complains and alleges, upon information and belief, the following:

INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Plaintiff brings this action on her own behalf for damages and 4 declaratory and injunctive relief arising from the Defendant's violation(s) of §1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, commonly referred to as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act ("FDCPA").

PARTIES

- Plaintiff is a resident of the State of New Jersey, residing at 519 2. Ridge Court, Lakewood, New Jersey 08701.
- Defendant is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with an office located at 5505 Nesconset Highway, Suite 200, Mount Sinai, New York 11766.

- 4. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined and used in the FDCPA, 15 USC §1692a(3).
- 5. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined and used in the FDCPA under 15 USC §1692a(6).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331, 15 U.S.C. §1692 *et seq.* and 28 U.S.C. §2201. If applicable, the Court also has pendent jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367(a).
- 7. Venue is properly placed in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), based upon plaintiff's residence within this district.

ALLEGATIONS FOR CLASS ACTION

- Rules of Civil Procedure ("FRCP") Rule 23 on behalf of herself and all persons/consumers, along with their successors in interest, who have received similar debt collection notices and/or letters or communications from the Defendant which, as alleged herein, are in violation of the FDCPA, as of the date of Plaintiff's Complaint (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class is the Defendant herein, and any person, firm, trust, corporation, or other entity related to or affiliated with the Defendant, including, without limitation, persons who are officers, directors, employees, associates or partners of the Defendant.
 - 9. This Class satisfies all the requirements of FRCP Rule 23 for

maintaining a class action.

- 10. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Upon information and belief, hundreds of persons have received debt collection notices and/or letters or communications from the Defendant which violated various provisions of the FDCPA.
- 11. The debt collection notices and/or letters or communications from the Defendant, received by the Class, are to be evaluated by the objective standard of the hypothetical "least sophisticated consumer."
- and which predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation: (i) Whether the Defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA; (ii) Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been injured by the Defendant's conduct; (c) Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of Defendant's wrongdoing and, if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and (iv) Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.
- 13. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class, and Plaintiff has no interests adverse or antagonistic to the interests of other members of the Class.
- 14. A class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims herein asserted, this being specifically envisioned by

Congress as a principal means of enforcing the FDCPA as codified by 15 USC \$1692(k).

- 15. The members of the Class are generally unsophisticated individuals, whose rights will not be vindicated in the absence of a class action.
- 16. Prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications resulting in the establishment of inconsistent or varying standards for the parties.
- 17. A class action will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment will also permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.
- 18. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the Class members' interests in that the Plaintiff's counsel is experienced and, further, anticipates that no impediments in the pursuit and maintenance of the class action as sought herein.
- 19. Absent a class action, the Class members will continue to suffer losses borne from Defendant's breaches of their statutorily protected rights as well as monetary damages, this allowing and enabling the Defendant's conduct to proceed and further enjoy the benefit of its ill-gotten gains.
- 20. Defendant has acted, and will act, on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate a final injunctive relief or

corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 21. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "20" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 22. Upon information and belief, Defendant, on its behalf, or on behalf of a third-party, as purchaser of the debt, began collecting an alleged consumer debt from the Plaintiff.
- 23. Upon information and belief, and better known to the Defendant, the Defendant began its collection efforts and campaign of communicating with the Plaintiff by sending Plaintiff a mass produced letter dated June 22, 2012.
- 24. The Defendant's letter states: "We are disappointed that you failed to make a payment on your account."
- 25. Defendant's statement is false, deceptive and misleading in that the use of the term "WE" falsely portrays that more than one person actually reviewed the account, and had the human emotion of being disappointed because the Plaintiff failed to make payment.
- 25. The Defendant's letter is clearly mass produced and there was no human involvement or review of the account.
- 26. As such, Defendant's letter has violated 15 USC §1692e and e(10), which prohibits debt collectors from using any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.
 - 27. The Defendant's statement further violates 15 USC §1692e(7) by

the implication that the Plaintiff committed disgraceful conduct in order to disgrace him, because the Plaintiff did not make a payment and therefore the Defendant was disappointed in the Plaintiff's failure/behavior to do so.

CAUSE OF ACTION (Violations of the FDCPA)

- 28. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered "1" through "27" herein with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 29. As discussed above, the Defendant's June 22, 2012 letter violated 15 USC §1692e, e(10), and e(7).
- 30. As a result of Defendant's violations of the FDCPA in that regard, Plaintiff has been harmed and is entitled to damages in accordance with the FDCPA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendant as follows: (1) actual damages provided and pursuant to 15 USC §1692k(a)(1); (2) statutory damages provided and pursuant to 15 USC §1692k(2)(A); (3) statutory damages provided and pursuant to 15 USC §1692k(2)(B); (4) attorneys' fees and costs provided and pursuant to 15 USC §1692k(a)(3); (5) a declaration that the Defendant's practices violated the FDCPA; and (6) for any such other and further relief, as well as further costs, expenses and disbursements of this action, as this Court may deem just and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Plaintiff hereby respectfully requests a trial by jury for all claims and issues in his Complaint to which it is or may be entitled to a jury trial.

<u>CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO L. CIV. R. 11.2</u>

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this matter is not the subject of any other action pending in any court or of any pending arbitration or administrative proceeding.

Dated:

December 19, 2012

M. HARVEY REPHEN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Jim Chehebar, Esq.

Of Counsel

4 Ross Court

Oakhurst, New Jersey 07755

(732) 616-6944

Attorney for the Plaintiff

Malka Josephs

To: C Tech Collections, Inc. 5505 Nesconset Highway, Suite 200 Mount Sinai, New York 11766 (Via Prescribed Service)

> Clerk of the Court, United States District Court, District of New Jersey Clarkson S. Fisher Building & U.S. Courthouse 402 East State Street Room 2020 Trenton, New Jersey 08608 (For Filing Purposes)